

For Immediate Release



City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

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Statement from Renton Mayor Kathy Keolker on Renton being selected as the preferred site for the Sonics Arena

We are excited that the ownership of the Sonics and Storm have chosen Renton as their preferred site for a world-class sports and entertainment venue. This is definitely a great moment for Renton. The economic opportunities that this arena promises go far beyond Renton's borders. All of King County and the State of Washington will benefit.

We look to the Legislature to authorize King County to extend this package of visitor and user taxes—taxes we are already paying. I believe the “No New Taxes” proposal laid out for the Legislature is sound, reasonable, and worthy of broad support.

The real work and discussions begin now. In order for us to determine if it makes sense for Renton, we need to have an open and honest dialog with the City Council and the community to consider the opportunities and impacts.

No commitments have been made regarding the possibility of city investment in the facility. If we can be assured of new revenue to the city, I will ask the City Council to consider making an investment at a level commensurate with those new revenues, just as we have done with other economic development projects in our community.

We are also committed to working with the neighborhoods that would be most impacted by the development including North Renton and Kenndale. One of my first priorities is to engage a consultant to work directly with the residents of these neighborhoods to help them identify and protect what they love about their neighborhoods, as well as to look for opportunities for improvement that development of this facility could facilitate.

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